

### **REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed on March 19, 2004, the Examiner requested that the Amendment filed on January 12, 2004 should be re-submitted in the format which will comply with 37 CFR 1.121 (a)&(c), disapproved the drawing changes because they were not submitted separately and because the Examiner suggested that Figures 3 and 6 should use two independent sectional lines, objected to claims 7 and 20 because they referred to the arc discharge contact as being "spherically shaped" rather than semi-circular in shape, rejected claims 1,2,6,7,10,11,14,15,19,20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ketelsleger (US201/0034167), rejected claims 1,2,6,11,15,19-25 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stanevich (US5,135,417), rejected claims 3, 12, 16 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being an obvious combination of Ketelsleger and Ito (US5,630,738) and indicated that claims 4,5,13,17,18 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this amendment sheet one of the drawings has been replaced with a corrected drawing, the abstract has been replaced with a new shortened abstract, claims 1, 5, 7, 15, 18, and 20 have been amended, claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 16, 17, 26, and 27 have been canceled, and claims 32 and 33 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14, 15, 18-25 and 28-33 remain in this application.

### **Previous Amendment**

Attached is a copy of the previous amendment filed on January 12, 2004 which has been reformatted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 (a)&(c). No other changes were made to the amendment.

### **Drawings**

Attached are two copies of sheet 1 of 5 of the drawings. One sheet marked "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" has the changes highlighted. The other sheet marked "Replacement Sheet" is a clear copy of the drawings as amended which should replace the original sheet 1 of 5. Independent section lines have been added to account for the different views in Figures 3 and 6.

### Claims

Claims 7 and 20 have been amended to indicate that the arc discharge contact is semi-spherical rather than spherical or semi-circular. The Applicants understand the Examiner's concern that the arc discharge contact is not a complete sphere. However, to indicate that it is circular would be improper. The term circle refers to a shape that is two dimensional which would not correctly define the three dimensional shape of the contact. Since the term semi-spherical more closely defines the three dimensional shape of the arc discharge contact, that term was used.

Claim 4 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 includes the limitations of claim 4, intervening claim 3, and base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom should be allowable. Because of redundancy claims 3 and 4 were canceled.

Claim 13 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 32 includes the limitations of claim 13, intervening claim 12, and base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 32 should be allowable. Because of redundancy claims 12 and 13 were canceled.

Claim 17 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 includes the limitations of claim 17, intervening claim 16, and base claim 15. Accordingly, claim 15 and all claims dependent therefrom should be allowable. Because of redundancy claims 16 and 17 were canceled.

Claim 27 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 33 includes the limitations of claim 27, intervening claim 26, and base claim 15. Accordingly, claim 33 should be allowable. Because of redundancy claims 26 and 27 were canceled.

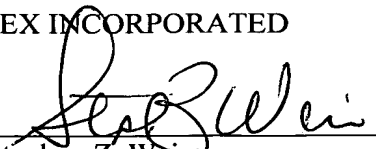
Claims 5 and 18 were modified to depend upon a non-canceled claim.

As discussed above, the claimed invention is not disclosed in any one of the references alone or in combination with one another. The Applicants believe, therefore, that all of the objections and rejections raised by the Examiner have been overcome. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all of the claims remaining in the application and to grant into a patent covering the claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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